

**Bonneville Power Administration
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, May 29, 2002**

Contact: [Mike Hansen](#) | , BPA (503)-230-5131
[Kirsten Kler, BPA \(503\) 230-4411](#)

Vandals destroy insulators;

BPA offers reward

PORTLAND, Ore. - Vandals shot out insulators on a high-voltage transmission line causing thousands of dollars worth of damage and lost revenues to the Bonneville Power Administration, Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and Lane Electric Cooperative. The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals who damaged the insulators.

Some time prior to 7:15 p.m. on May 24, vandals shot out approximately 80 individual insulators on the BPA Cougar-Thurston 115,000 volt transmission line causing it to go out of service at that time. The vandalism occurred near Cougar Dam, which is approximately 25 miles east of Eugene. BPA crews replaced the damaged insulators at an estimated cost of \$6,000. Even though no electrical service to EWEB and Lane Electric Cooperative customers was disrupted by the vandalism, Eugene Water and Electric had to purchase additional power to serve its customers during the 13 hours that it took to repair the damaged line. This cost EWEB over \$5,000.

"Vandalism accounts for millions of dollars in damage to the Northwest power system each year and these costs get passed on to customers and ratepayers," explained Jeffrey Millennor, security specialist for BPA. "Beyond these monetary costs and inconveniences is the possible disruption of essential services - fire, police and medical - that depend on reliable electric service."

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most important, deterrence of future crime. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$2 million. Informants can call toll free (800) 437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

Submitted for distribution on *05-29-2002* at *3:02 PM*

Bonneville Power Administration, 905 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232
Mailing Address: Media Relations - KC7, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-3621

Phone: (503)230-5131 **FAX:** (503) 230-5884 **Web Site:** <http://www.bpa.gov>